E-Read Texas:
TSLAC and Amigos, DPLA and SimplyE

February 23, 2021

Karen McElfresh, TSLAC
Christine Peterson, Amigos

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E-Read Texas!

TSLAC Director's Blog

THE DIRECTOR
with

https://www.tsl.texas.gov/director/

E-Read Texas – TSLAC E-book project

July 8, 2019

I am excited to announce the launch of E-Read Texas, a new statewide initiative to bring E-books to Texans through libraries, starting with small community libraries in all parts of the state.

The E-Read Texas program will provide e-book content via an easy-to-use platform that will allow readers to simultaneously see TSLAC content alongside any provided by their local libraries.

TSLAC has signed an agreement with Amigos Library Services to implement SimplyE, an open source e-book application, in small community libraries across the state, starting with those using the Biblionix Apollo integrated library system. In July and August, Amigos will work with those libraries to make the application available to their customers. In September, TSLAC will make e-books available to libraries and readers across Texas. Any library that has enabled the SimplyE application will be able to easily offer E-Read Texas content alongside whatever e-books DPLA currently offering through other providers.

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E-Read Texas – An Overview

- **A statewide collection of e-books**
  - Separate from TexShare Databases
  - No cost to libraries
  - Primary goal: to help small and rural libraries offer e-books to their patrons
- **An app to simplify access to e-books: SimplyE**
  - Implementation and hosting by Amigos
  - Supported by TSLAC
  - Libraries work with Amigos to add content
  - Patrons can read TSLAC-provided e-books alongside their own e-books

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Texas State Library & Amigos

Texas State Library

- Funding
- Ebook collections
- Contact: Karen McElfresh, kmcelfresh@tsl.texas.gov
- https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/ebooks

Amigos Library Services

- SimplyE app
- Technical assistance
- Contact: Christine Peterson, peterson@amigos.org
- https://www.amigos.org/simplye

TEXAS STATE LIBRARY
AND
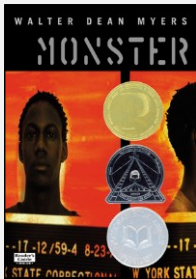**ARCHIVES COMMISSION**

Amigos Library Services
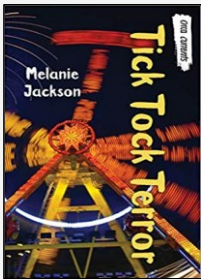
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Collection Scope

- Intended to complement collections maintained by small and medium-sized community libraries in Texas
- Adult fiction and popular non-fiction, including young adult crossover
- Collection to support literacy programs

- Collection development policy: https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/ebooks
- E-Read Texas Working Group: https://www.tsl.texas.gov/texshare/ebooksworking.html

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What Content does E-Read Texas Offer?
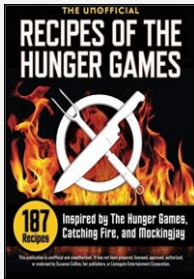
Over 6,000 titles and growing
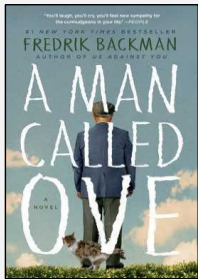
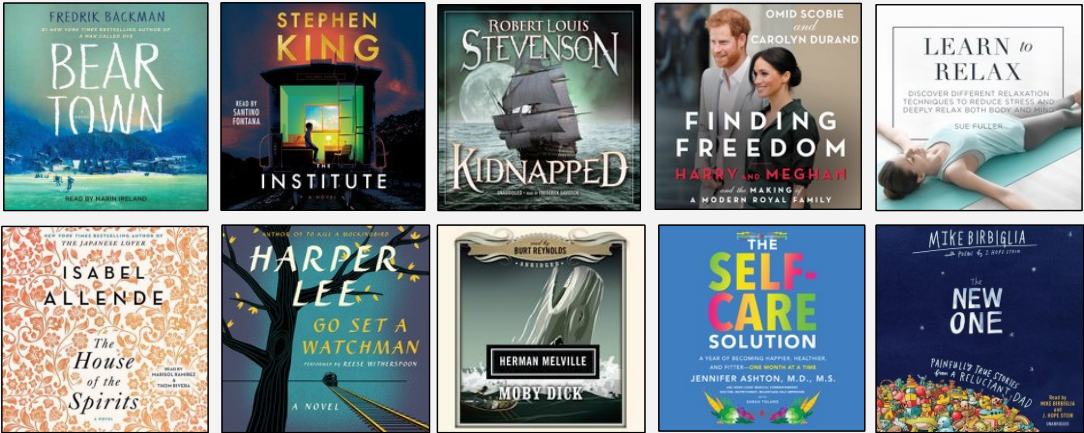| Award Winners | Literacy Collection | Genre Fiction | Popular Non-Fiction | Popular Fiction |
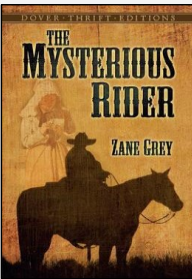
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New Content

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Audiobooks

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More New Content

- **Texas Book Consortium**
  - Texas A&M University Press
  - Texas State Historical Association Press
  - TCU Press
  - Stephen F. Austin State University Press
  - Texas Review Press

- **Teacher Created Materials/TIME for Kids**

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License Models

- **Biblioboard: https://e-readtx.biblioboard.com/home**
  - Perpetual Access
  - Unlimited simultaneous users
  - Available online AND via SimplyE

- **Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)**
  - Multiple access models (1-year, 2-year, metered access, perpetual, open access)
  - Most are one simultaneous user
  - ONLY available via SimplyE

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Copies and Holds

Preferred: perpetual non-metered access with unlimited simultaneous use!

#eBooksForAll   ALA American Library Association

Limiting access to eBooks for libraries means limiting access for readers like you.

America's libraries are committed to promoting literacy and a love of reading with diverse collections, programs and services for all ages. Downloadable content and eBooks are often many readers' front door to accessing material at their local library.

In 2019, one publisher announced it would limit readers' access to new eBook titles through their libraries. Macmillan Publishers decided it would allow libraries – matter the size of their city or town – to purchase only one copy of each new eBook title for the first eight weeks after a book's release.

Before the embargo took effect on November 1, 2019, ALA collected 160,000 signatures from readers who urged Macmillan not to go through with their plan. We delivered these signatures in person to CEO John Sargent, but Macmillan's policy remained unchanged. Readers have been persistent in their opposition. Signatures on our petition eventually increased to more

https://ebooksforall.org/

But sometimes we can't avoid limits:

- **Initial copies**
  - Non-fiction: 2-5
  - Fiction: 2-10 copies
    High-demand fiction is expected to be needed for book club titles and school assignments
- **Hold ratio**
  - 6 holds per copy for e-books until a maximum of 250 copies is purchased
  - After 250 copies of any single title are purchased, TSLAC may attempt to negotiate a statewide license with publishers

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100+ Publishers

SCRIBNER

hachette BOOK GROUP

Harper Collins

MACMILLAN

SIMON & SCHUSTER

workman

ATRIA BOOKS

INSIGHT GUIDES

Cinco Puntos Press

ROWMAN & LITTLEFIELD

Fodor's Travel

DOVER

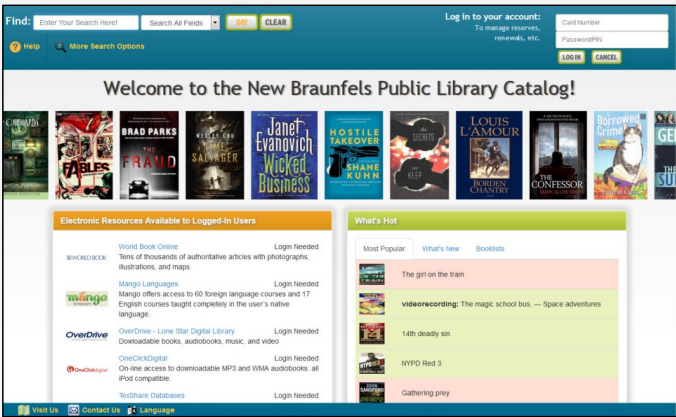LONE STAR PUBLISHING

Not included (for now)

Penguin Random House

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Who Can Join?

Texas public libraries serving populations under 100,000

- **Phase 1 (July 2019- Aug. 2020):**
  - Apollo Biblionix libraries only
  - TSLAC pays 100%

- **Phase 2 (Sept. 2020):**
  - Additional ILS integrations
  - TSLAC pays 100%

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Supported Systems

- **Auto-Graphics VERSO**
- **Biblionix Apollo**
- **Book Systems Atriuum**
- **Evergreen**
- **Koha**
- **III: Sierra & Polaris**
- **TLC CARLX**
- **SirsiDynix: Symphony & Horizon**

Have another system?

Email simplye@amigos.org

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What does it cost?

- **No cost for public libraries serving less than 100,000 users**
  - Hosting fees are 100% paid by TSLAC
- **Funding is through Aug. 31, 2021**

- **What happens after August 2021?**
  - Program will continue!
  - Waiting on legislative budget request for the FY22-23 biennium and the 2021 Legislative Session

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SimplyE is an open source ebook platform developed by libraries for libraries. It simplifies your patrons' users experience finding, borrowing and reading an ebook from the library.

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SimplyE Replaces This . . .

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With This . . .

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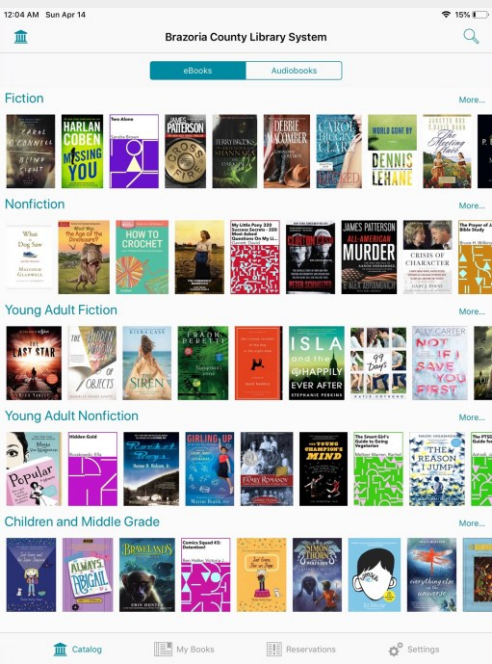
Current Content Providers
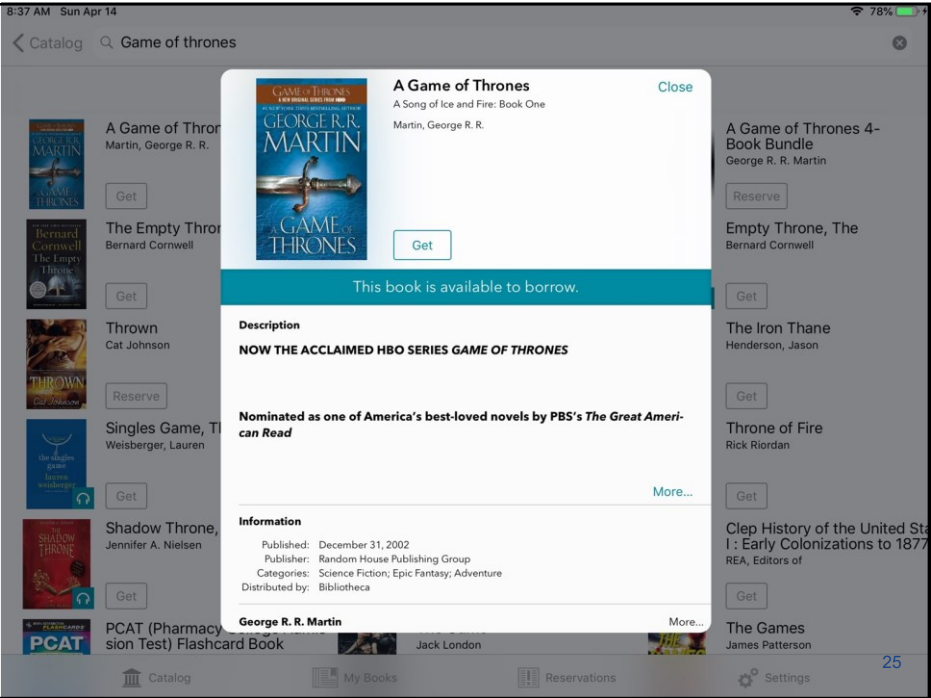

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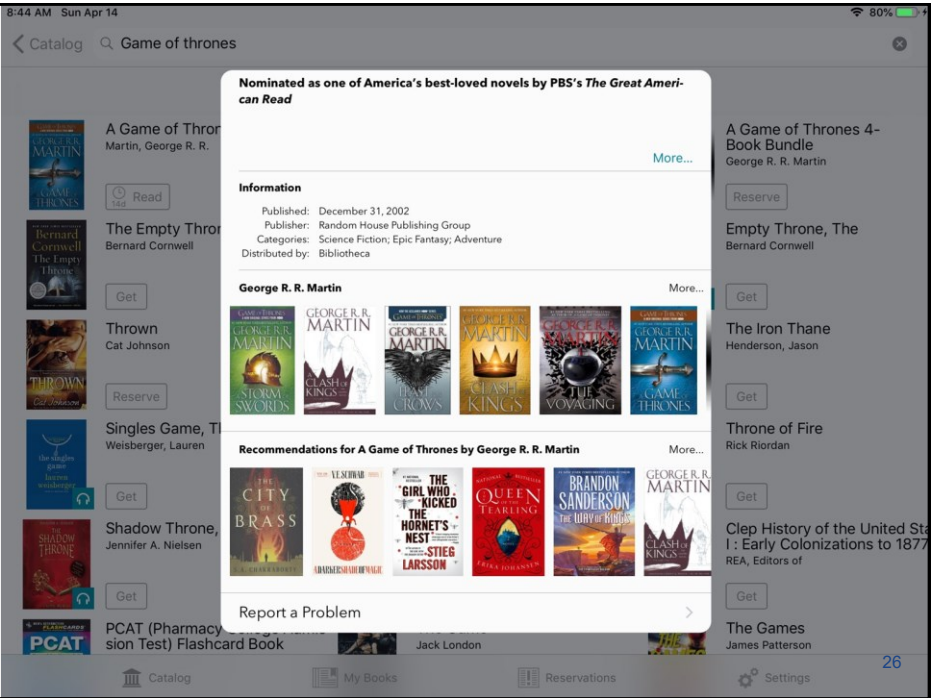## SimplyE Demo
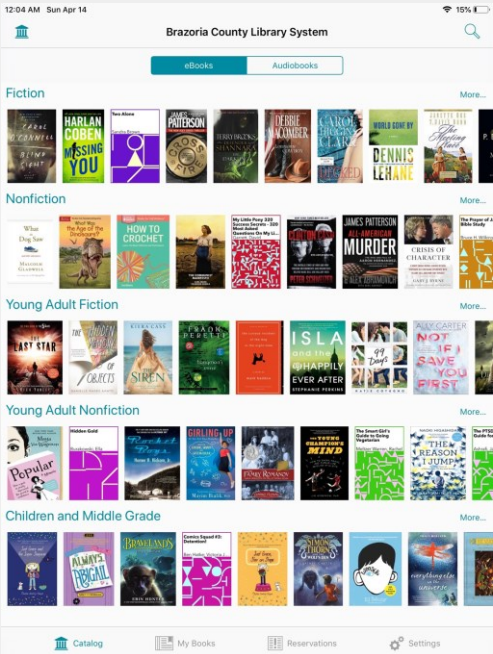
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Choose Library

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Search

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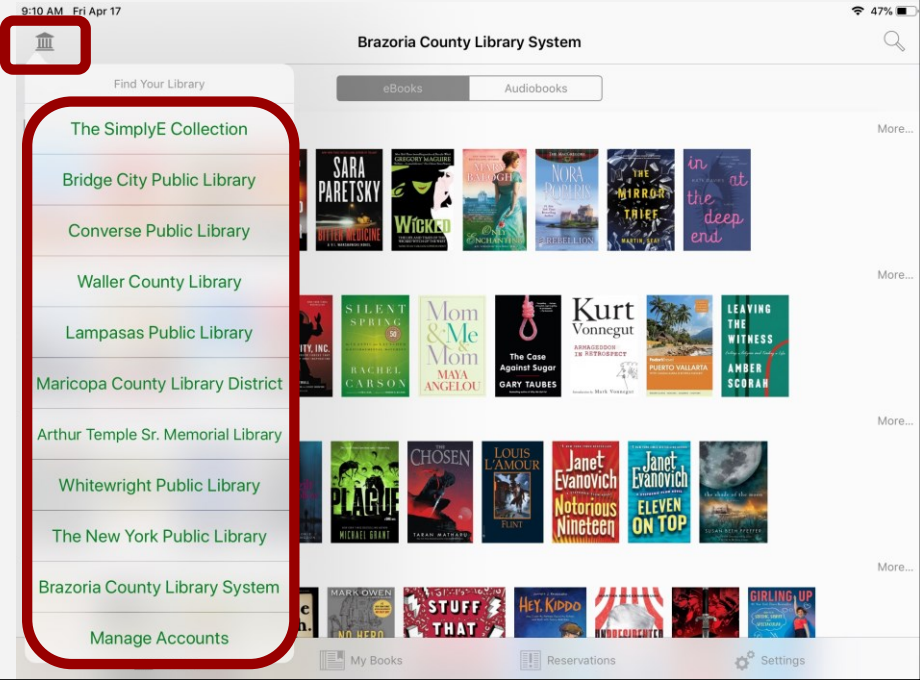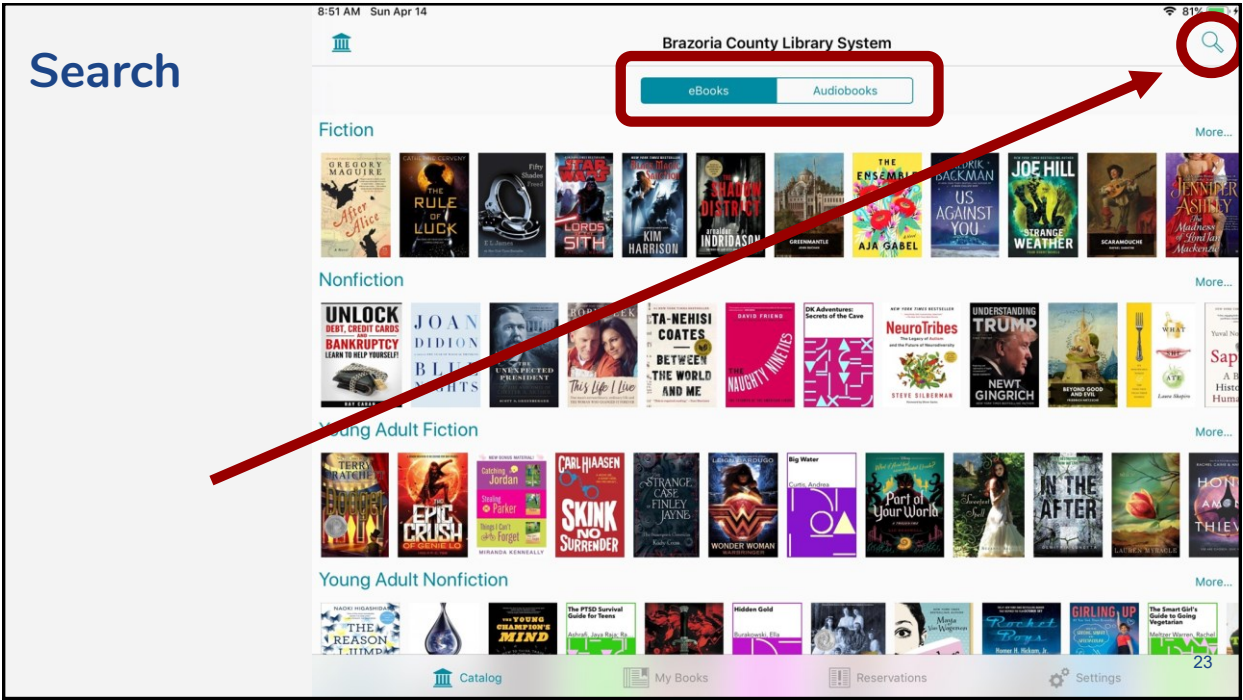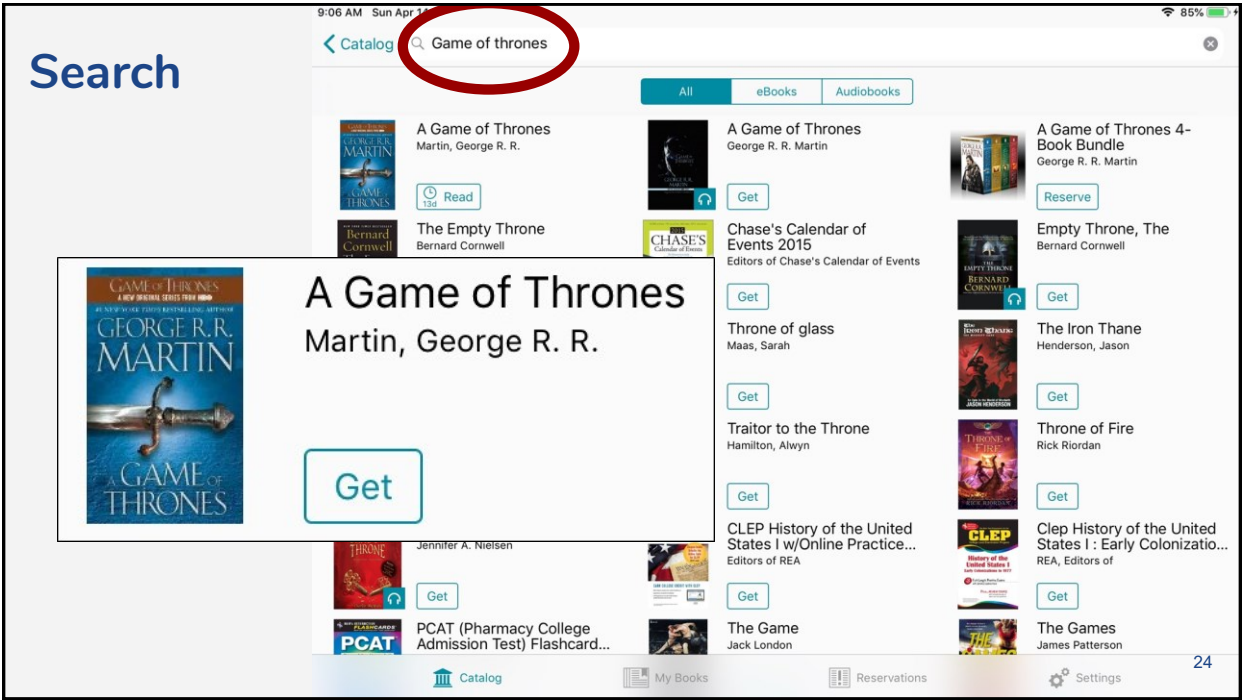
Search

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Item Detail

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Novelist Integration

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Checkout

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Read

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Listen

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Holds
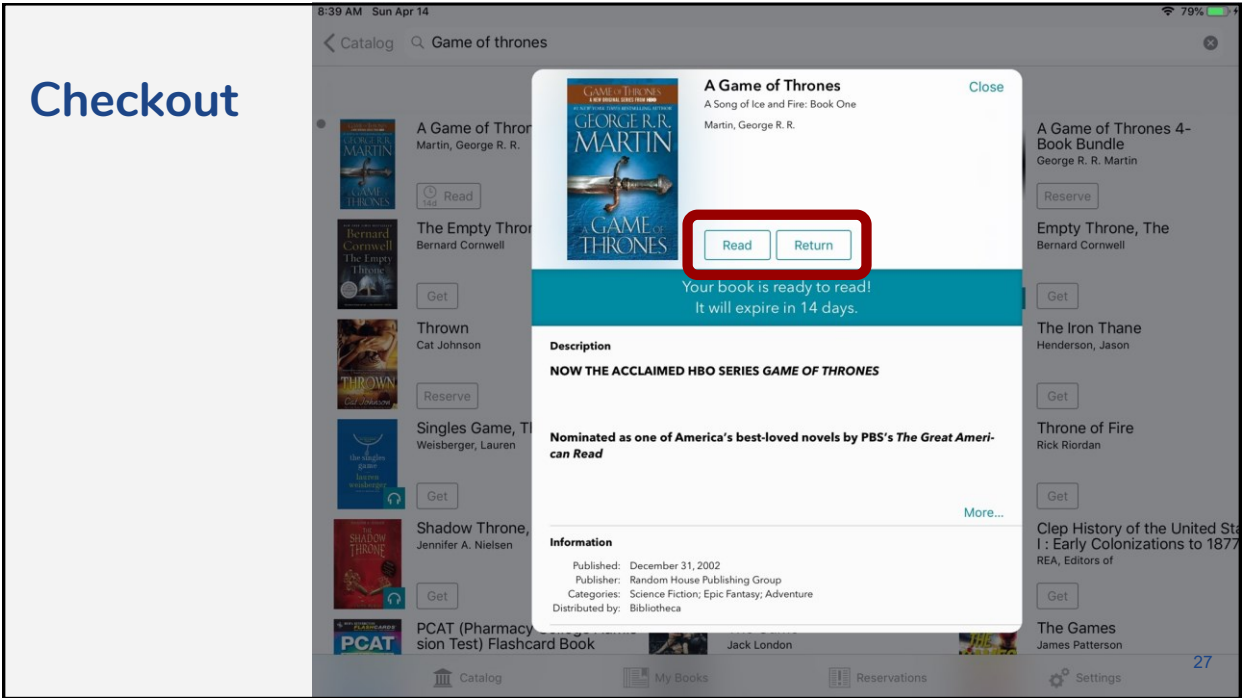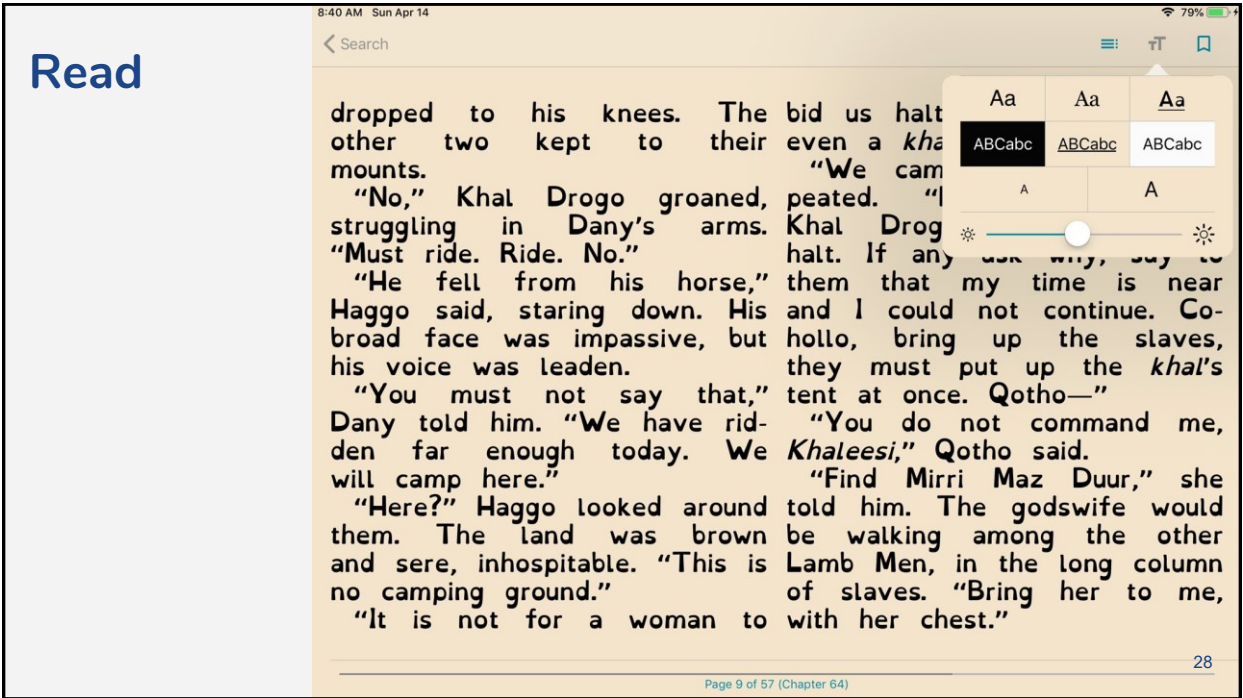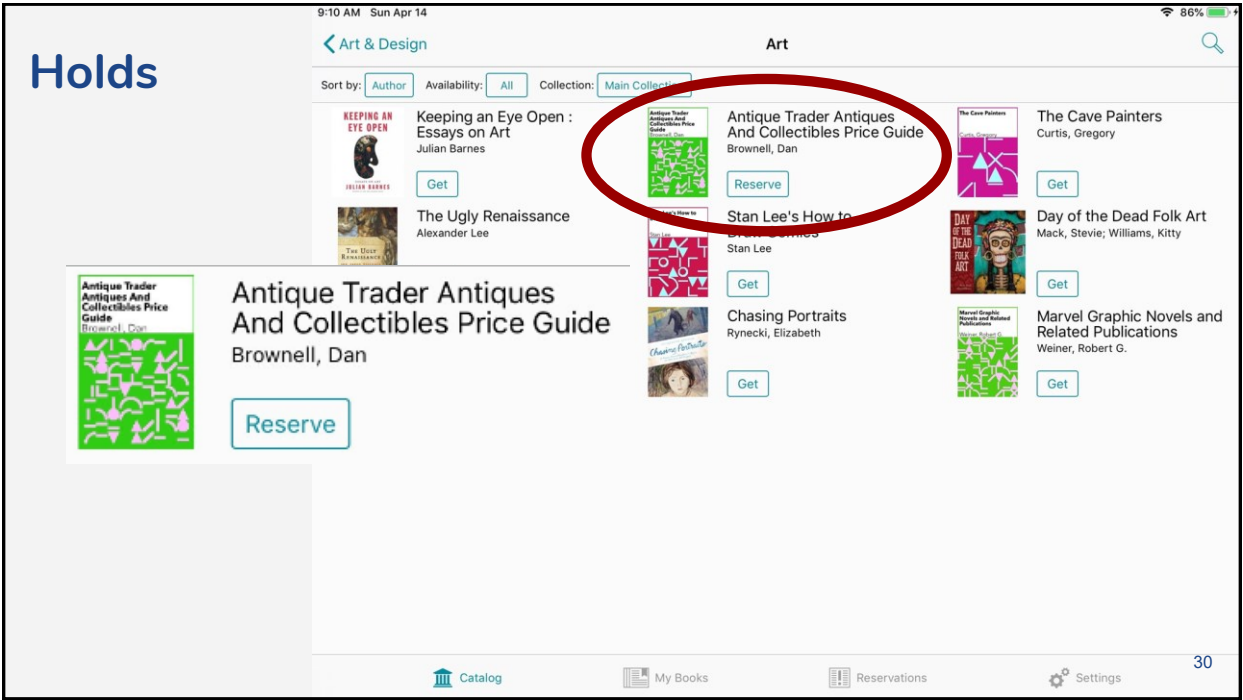
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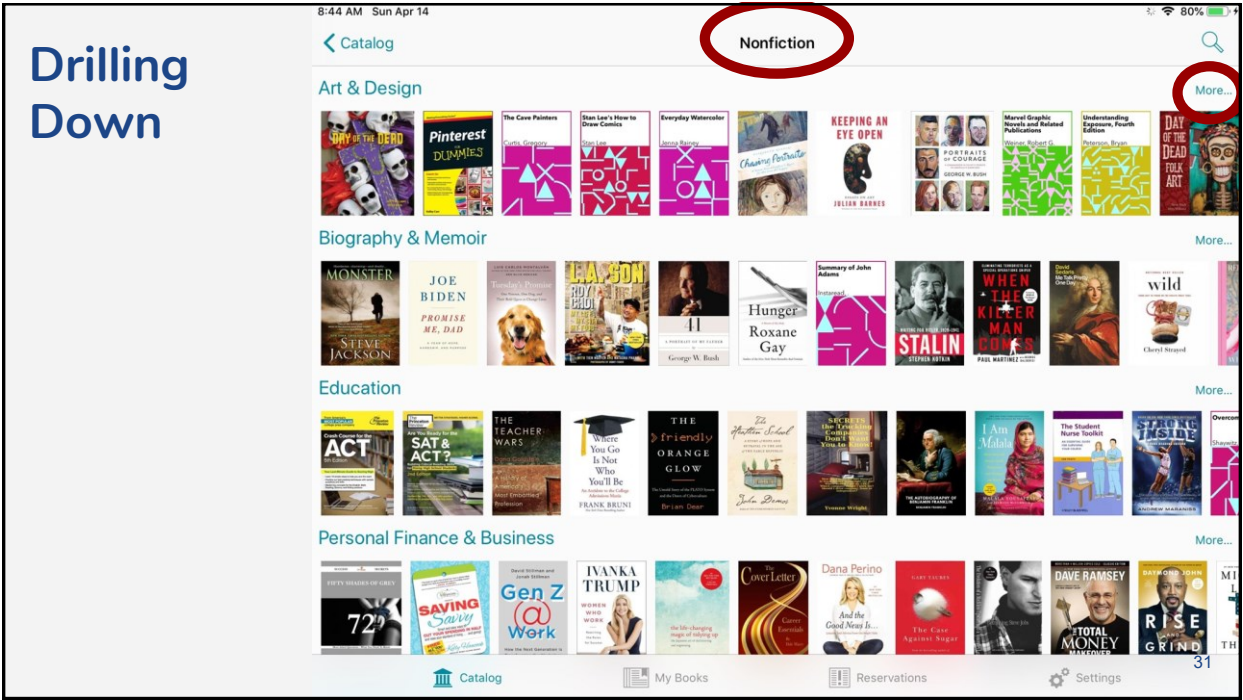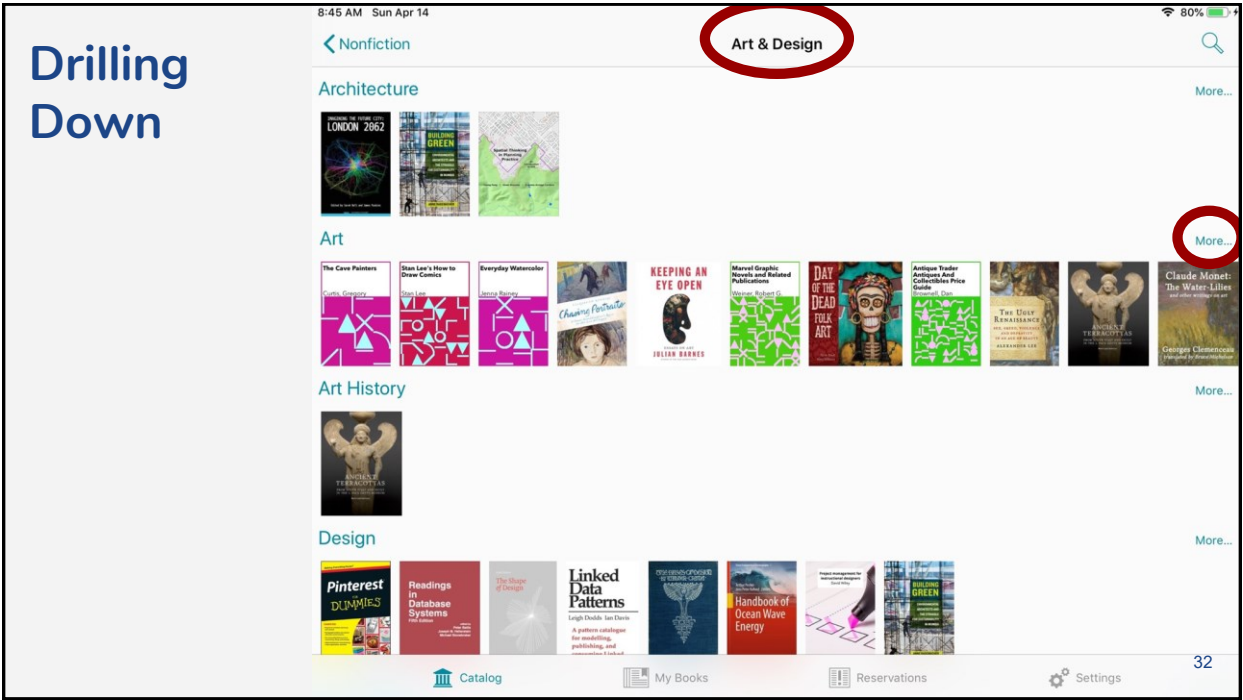**Drilling Down**

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Drilling Down

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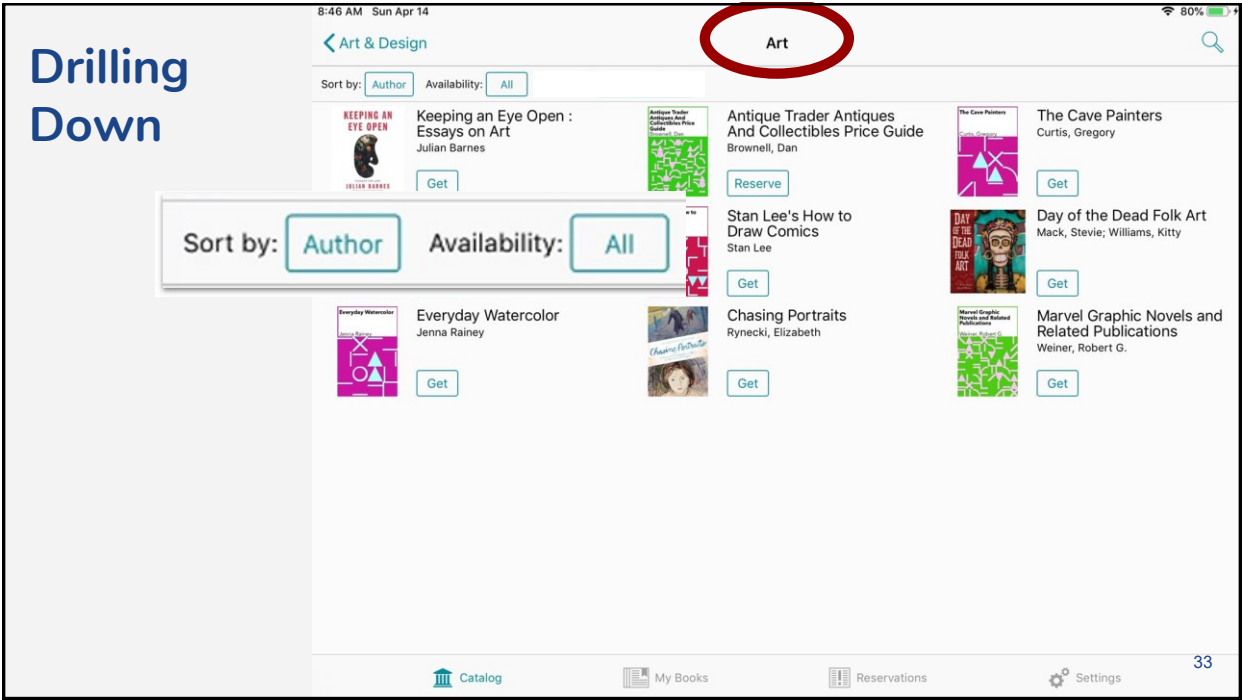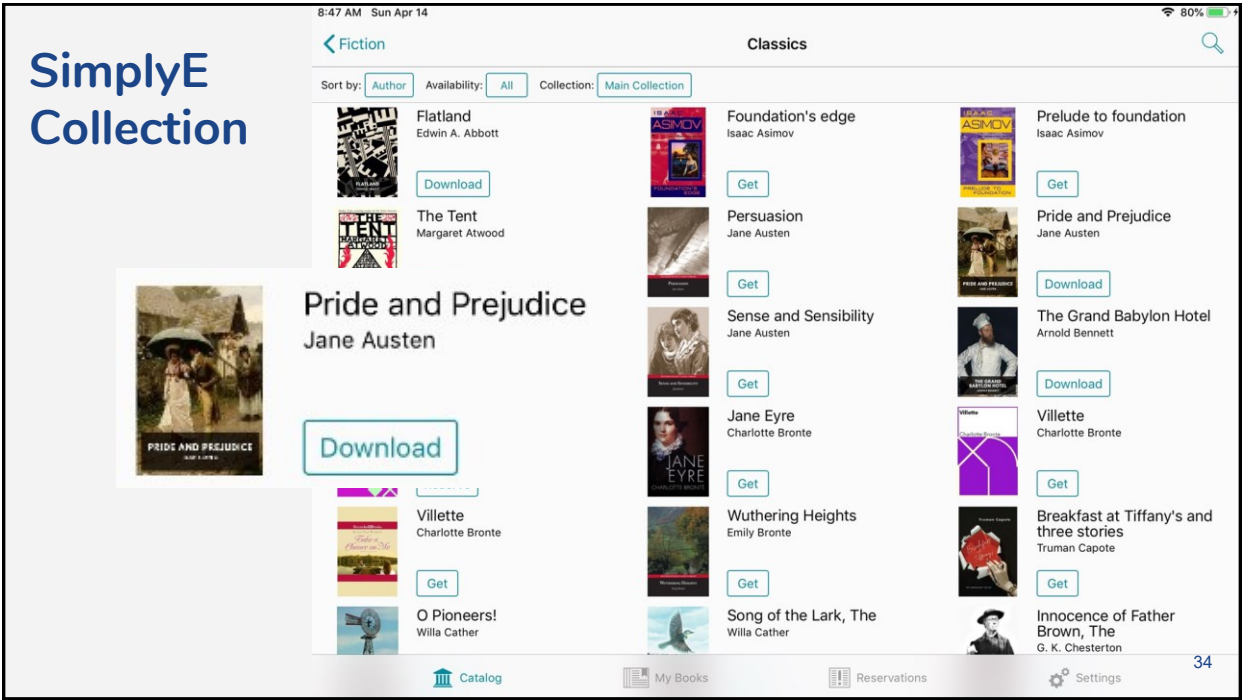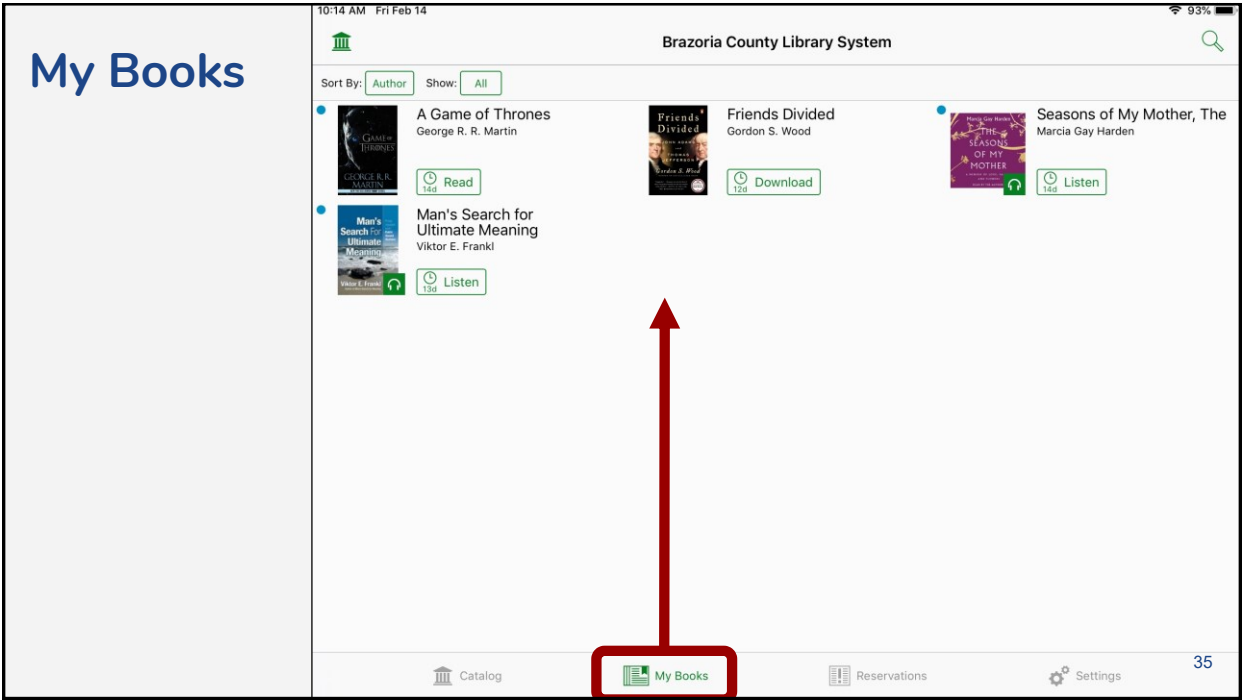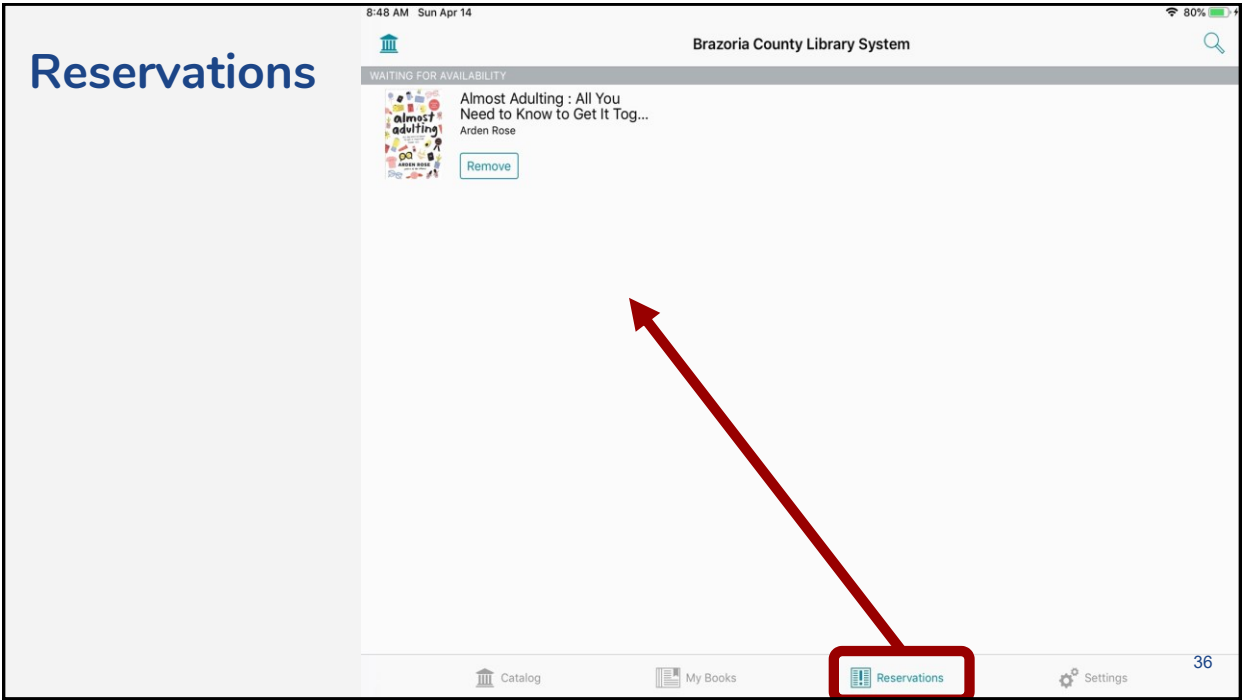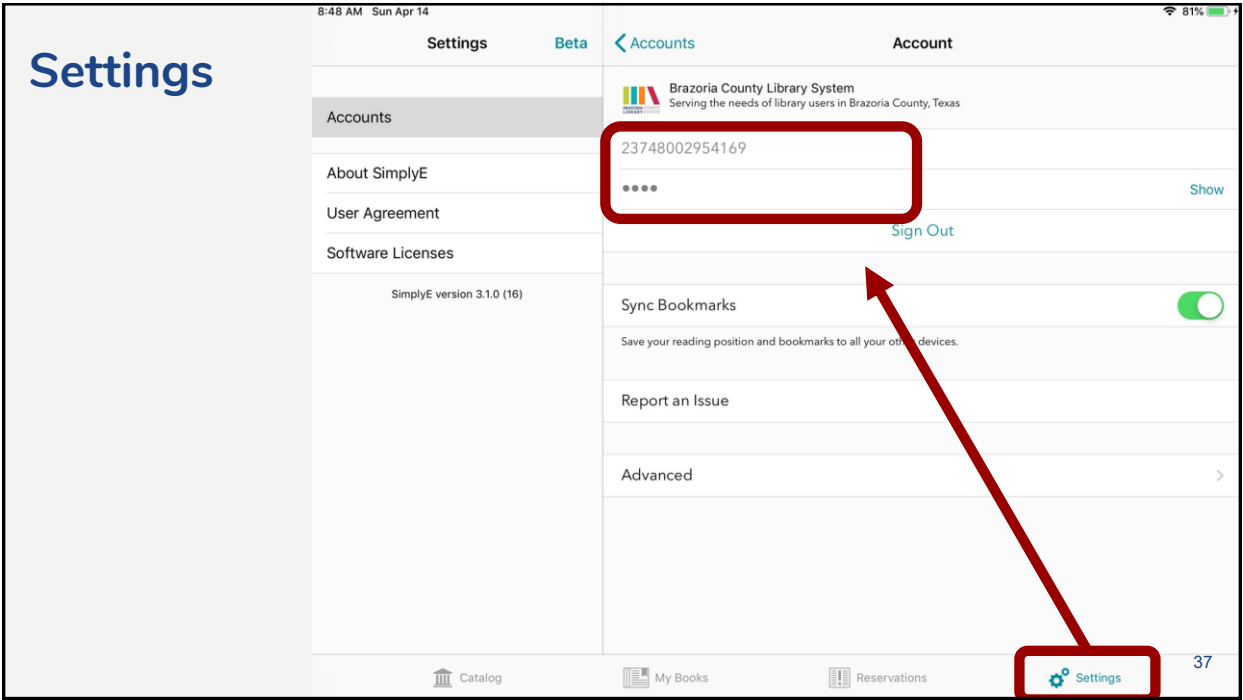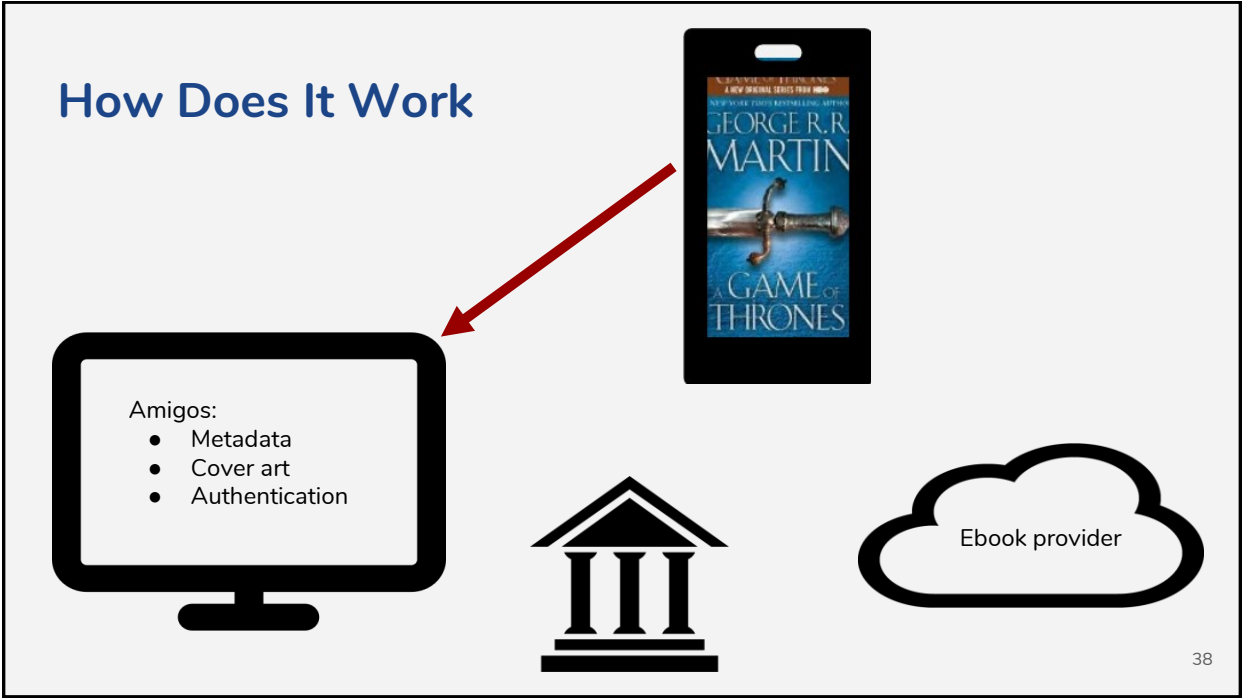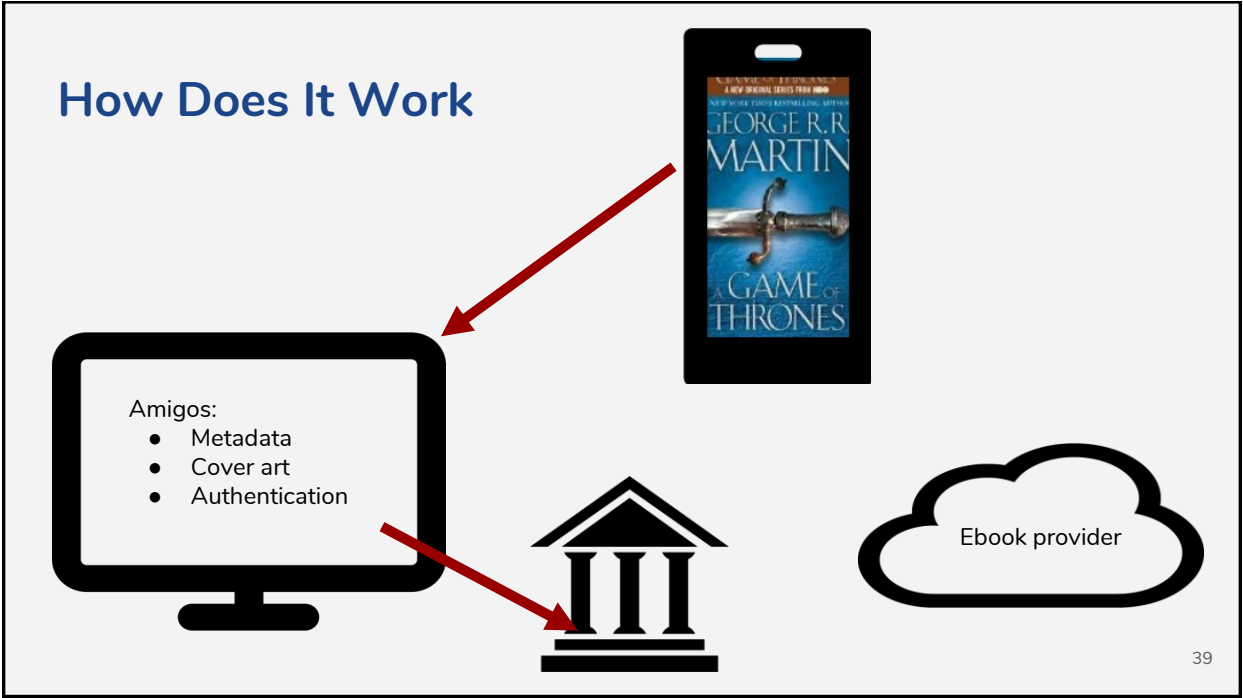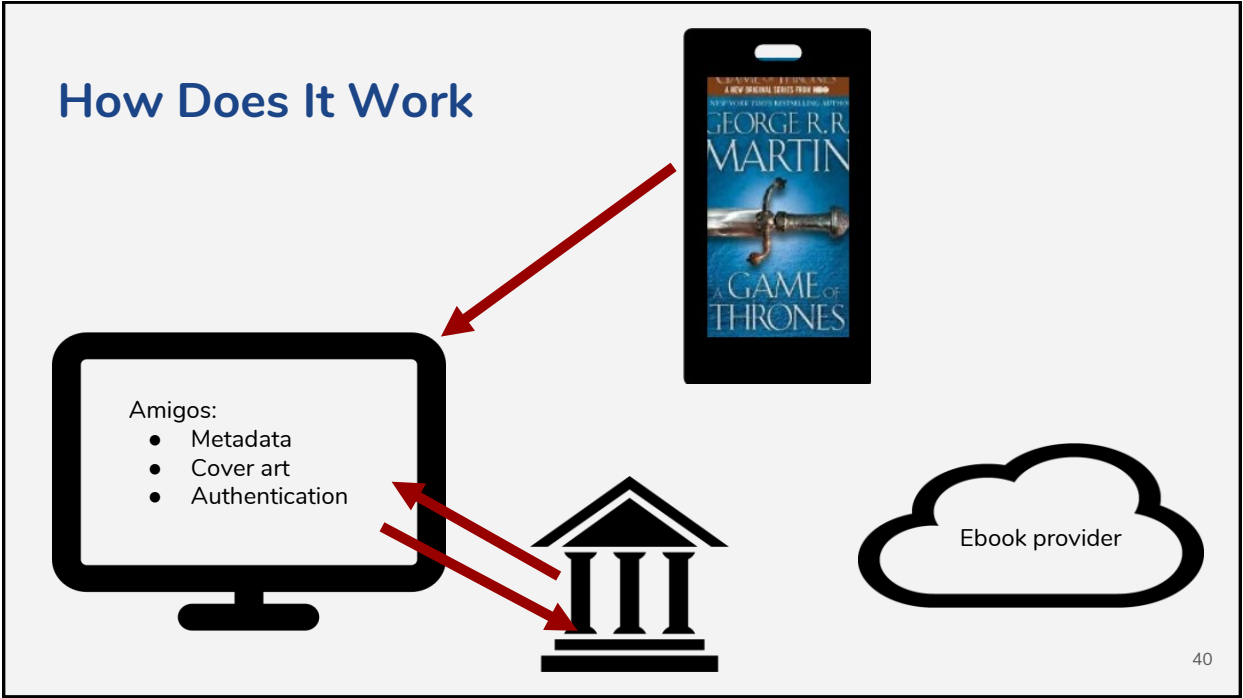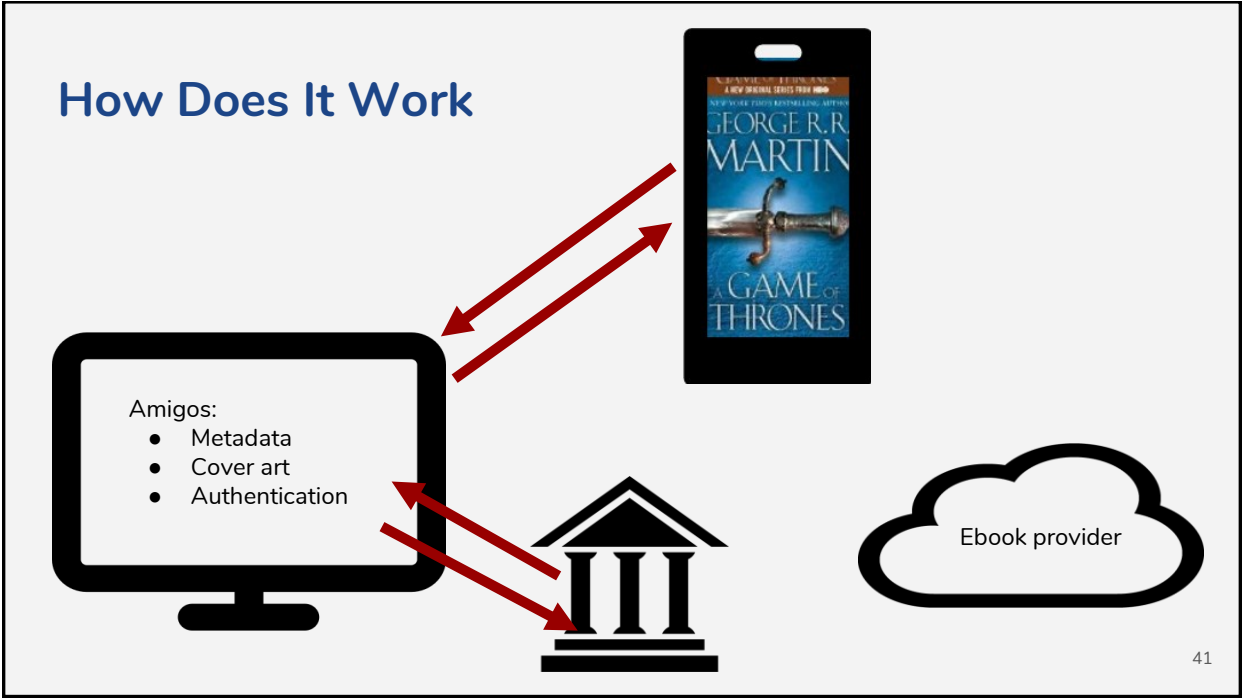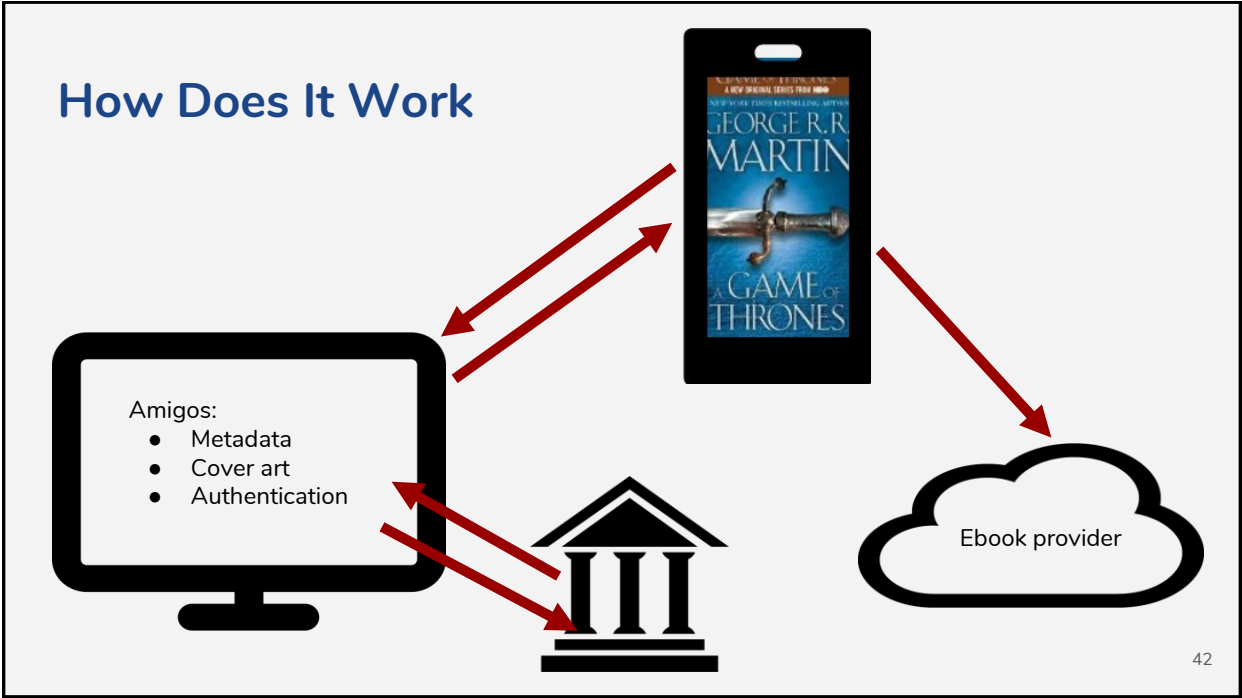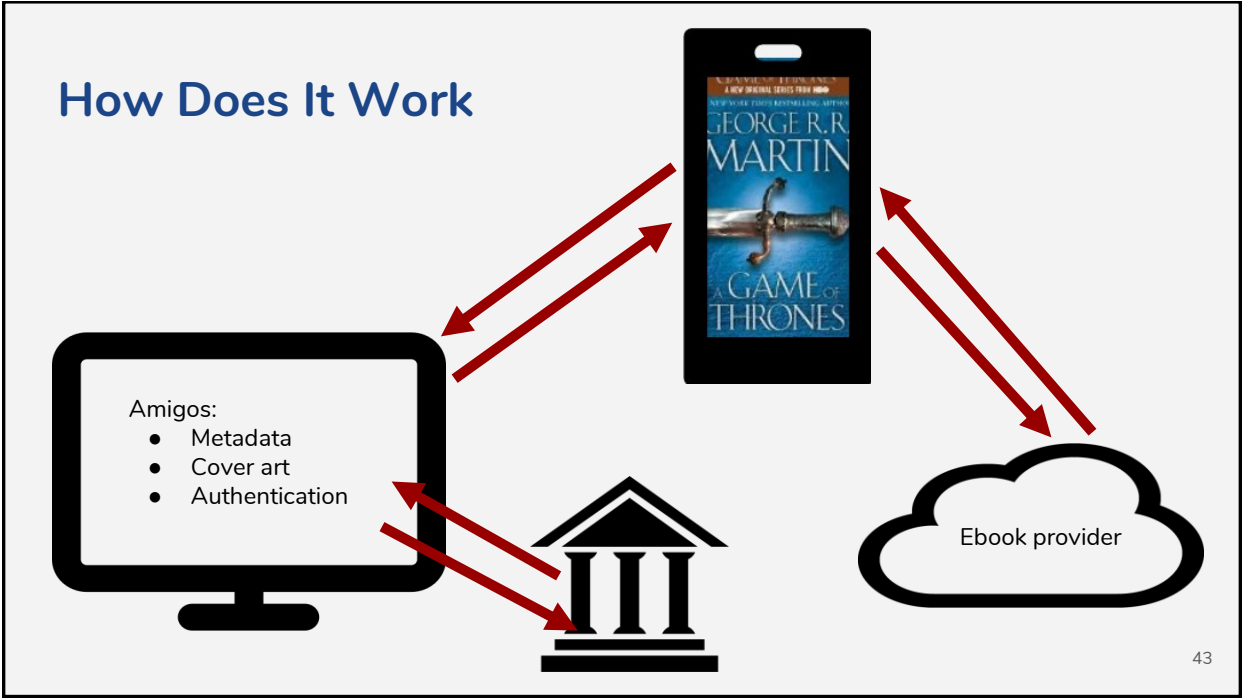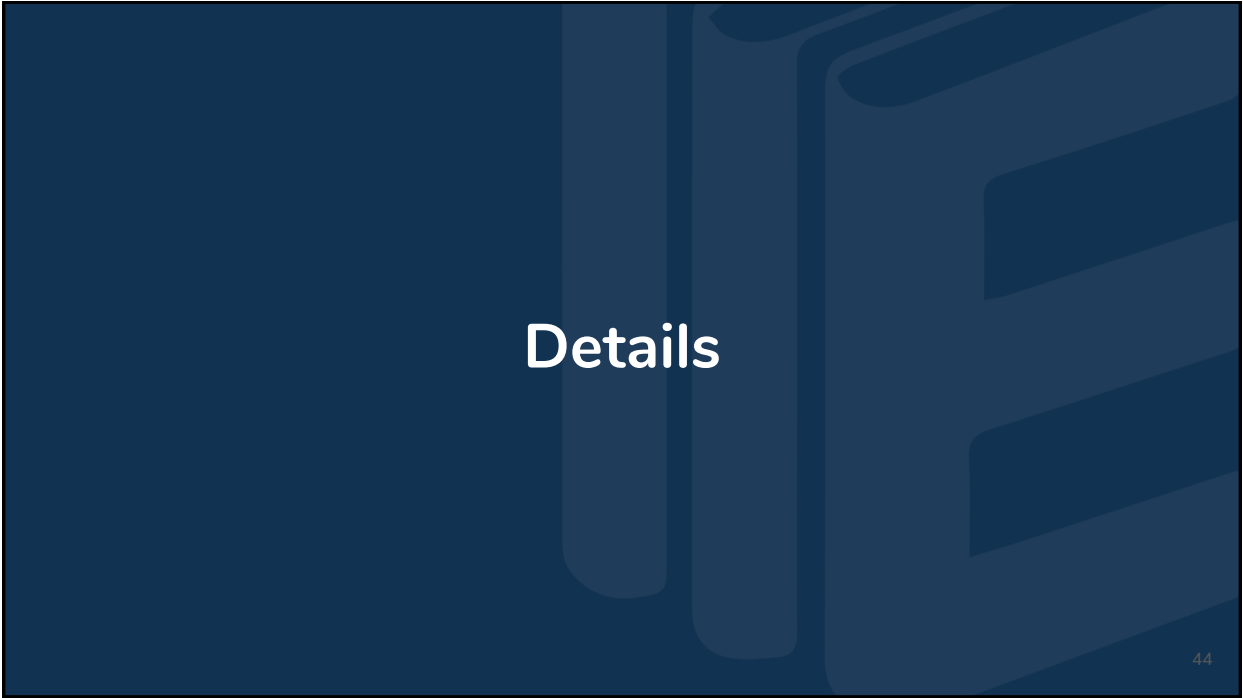
Drilling Down

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SimplyE Collection

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My Books

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Reservations

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How Does It Work

Amigos:
- Metadata
- Cover art
- Authentication

Ebook provider

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How Does It Work

Amigos:
- Metadata
- Cover art
- Authentication

Ebook provider

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How Does It Work

Amigos:
- Metadata
- Cover art
- Authentication

Ebook provider

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Details

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E-Read Texas

E-Read Texas brings electronic books to Texans served by small community libraries in all parts of the state. E-Read Texas provides library e-books and an e-reader application that make it possible for all Texans served by public libraries to access e-books.

SimplyE

TSLAC has partnered with **Amigos Library Services** to implement **SimplyE**, an e-book app, for smaller public libraries. SimplyE was developed by the New York Public Library in partnership with other major libraries in the nation in response to challenges patrons face in accessing e-books. As of May 2020, Amigos has implemented SimplyE for over 70 public libraries from all parts of Texas (**map**).

Contact (for more information)

- Amigos: **simplye@amigos.org**
- TSLAC: **texshare@tsl.texas.gov**

https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/ebooks

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How Do We Start?

- **To simplye@amigos.org:**
  - ○ Agreement
  - ○ Library Information Form
  - ○ 135x135px logo

E-READ TEXAS AGREEMENT

This Agreement is to record the understanding between AMIGOS LIBRARY SERVICES (Amigos) and _____(Library) regarding the terms and conditions on which Amigos will provide SimplyE services to Library.

Amigos Library Services:

- Will host and maintain Library's implementation of SimplyE;
- Will aid Library in configuring the service;
- Will communicate with e-resource vendors on Library's behalf;
- Will provide technical support for Library staff

Library:

- Gives Amigos the authority to communicate with their e-resource vendors on their behalf;
- Will aid Amigos in configuring the service;
- Will market and publicize the service to their patrons;
- Will share marketing materials with Amigos, TSLAC, and other libraries
- Will work with Amigos to troubleshoot and correct issues

This Agreement shall take effect on the latest signature date by authorized representatives of Amigos and Library and shall be renewed annually. This Agreement may be terminated on 30-day written notice by either party.

Authorized signature   Miguel Figueroa
For Library   For Amigos Library Services

Title   President and Chief Executive Officer
                                                        Title

Date   Date

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How Do We Start?

- **To simplye@amigos.org:**
  - Agreement
  - Library Information Form
  - 135x135px logo

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will provide Sim
Amigos Library
- Will ho
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Library:
- Gives A
- Will aid
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This Agreemen
and Library and
by either party

Authorized sig
For Library

Title

Date

SimplyE @Amigos
Library Implementation Form

Complete and return the following form to simplye@amigos.org. Please let us know if you have any questions!

All items with an asterisk are required.

General Information

*Library Name: _____

*Website URL (main website, not necessarily the ILS/catalog site):
_____

Number of active e-resource users: _____

Average number of monthly e-resource checkouts: _____

Brief description or tagline
  This will be displayed under your library's name in the list of libraries in the SimplyE app. I've included an example on the last page:
  _____

*Patron support email address
  The SimplyE mobile apps include an option for users to submit an "issue" to the library. This email address is used for that communication.
  _____

*No-delivery email account
  This is an email account for which email is either immediately deleted or rejected, e.g., no-reply@amigos.org. If you have one, type it below. If you do not or are not sure, use ours – no-reply@amigos.org.
  _____

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Amigos Staff

- **Chris Brown**
  - Configure
  - Test
  - Support
- **Christine Peterson**
  - Program Manager
- **Robert Williams**
  - Technical Analyst
- **Chauncy Garrett**
  - Server Admin
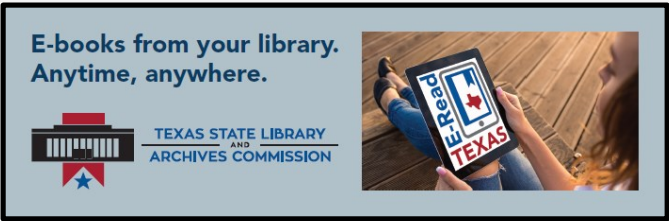

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Ongoing

- **Primary Contact(s):**
    - Added to simplye-users email list
    - Receive monthly statistics
    - Update us with changes
    - Require at least one person per library
- **Patron questions go initially to library's email address**
- **TSLAC continues to develop collection**
- **Free SimplyE training**

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Promotional Materials from TSLAC

- **Printable bookmarks & flyers available at https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/ebooks**
    - TSLAC can also customize the bookmarks with your library logo, print, and mail to you
- **Media kit – available on E-Read Texas website**
    - Includes draft press release, template letter to elected officials, social media posts, and links to instructional materials

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SimplyE Materials

https://wiki.lyrasis.org/display/SIM/Customizable+Aids+to+Help+Patrons

Customizable Aids to Help Patrons

Created by Christine Peterson, last modified on Aug 27, 2020

Below are documents that can be used as is, modified and customized by library staff to help patrons understand and use the SimplyE apps. They are the result of a 2020 grant awarded to Amigos Library Services from the Institute for Museum & Library Services through the Texas State Library & Archives Commission. Thanks go to not only these three organizations, but Marilynn Jacobs and Joy Markel, who created these documents for us, and Neil Esposito, who create the videos.

Please Read This First: Letter to Librarians (pptx)

Communications Toolkit for Librarians (pptx)

Getting Started (pptx)

Palm Card (pptx)

Poster (pptx)

Social and Web Graphics

Webinar Script (pptx)

Welcome Flyer (pptx)

Using and Troubleshooting SimplyE (pptx)

Videos:

31-second SimplyE Introduction

101-second SimplyE Introduction

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Where can you find
thousands of e-books
and audiobooks

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fBG8LQFwSRs

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Sharing Materials

https://wiki.lyrasis.org/display/
SIM/Library-Created+Aids+to+
Help+Patrons

Library-Created Aids to Help Patrons

Created by Christine Peterson, last modified on Aug 27, 2020

SimplyE Flyer - Brownwood.pdf (2019)

SimplyE Flyer - Brownwood.pdf (2019)

How To Guides for Android (2019)

Videos:

E-Read Rumble from San Francisco Public Library (May 15, 2020)
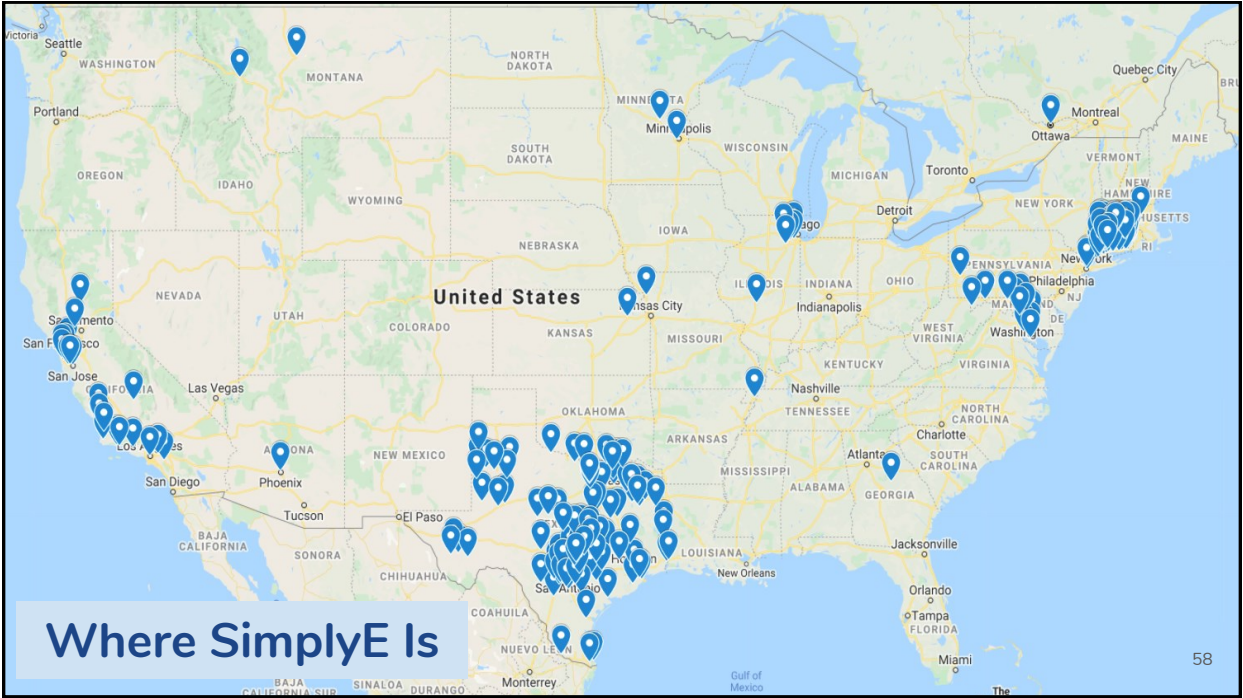
Introducing SimplyE! from Minitex (February 15, 2017)

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Current & Future

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Currently . . .

- Active development
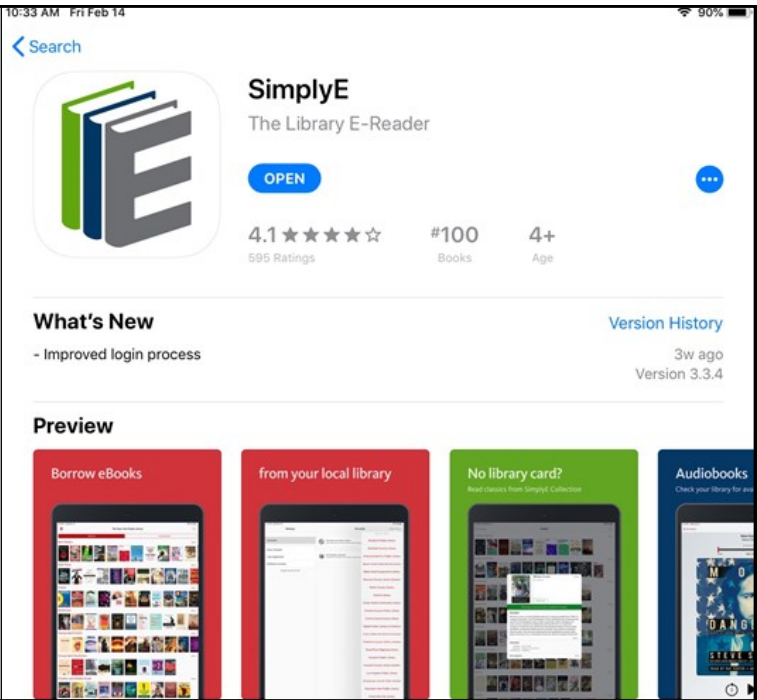- DPLA Exchange
- 100+ Texas libraries live . . .

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Burkburnett #100!!

Congratulations, Pamela Miller!!

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E-Read Texas Libraries

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Where SimplyE Is

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Future . . .

- **PDF support**
- **Hoopla discussions**
- **Academic patrons**
- **Upload locally-created materials**
- **More content providers**
  - ProQuest
  - Ebsco
  - Ingram
  - Gale

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Try It Yourself

Q&A

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We'll Start . . .

- What is my library does not have ebooks?
- What about Kindles?
- What about audiobooks?
- Do we have to start right now?
- What if we need help?
- What if our patrons need help?

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Next Steps

- **Ready now? Send to SimplyE@amigos.org:**
  - Agreement
  - Library information form
- **March 18th, 2 - 3 pm Central**
  - Webinar for current participants
  - Updates, advanced features, Q&A
- **More overview sessions coming . . .**

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Questions

Karen McElfresh
Texas State Library

Christine Peterson
Amigos Library Services

SimplyE@amigos.org
kmcelfresh@tsl.texas.gov

This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (Texas State Library and Archives Commission). (2020)

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